

Monitoring Ute Ladiesí-tresses (*Spiranthes diluvialis*), in Jefferson County, Montana Final Report, 1996-2000

Prepared for:

Bureau of Land Management
State Office and Butte Field Office

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Executive Summary

We monitored one population of Ute ladies-tresses (*Spiranthes diluvialis*), a wetland plant designated as threatened under the Endangered Species Act, in order to:

- help interpret the results of baseline surveys,
- provide preliminary assessment of population trend,
- identify critical life history stages, and
- guide future management actions.

Rigorous trend analysis and identification of critical life history stages were not possible because we had only two-to-three years of data on the seasonally-dormant stage. This stage remains

underground throughout the entire growing season and cannot be discerned from plant mortality except after dormancy duration and mortality rates have been calculated. Preliminary analysis indicates that season-long dormancy exceeds two years.

Management recommendations include avoiding direct impact to the flowering stage, providing annual or periodic reduction in competing vegetation, and conducting multi-year monitoring to evaluate any management action changes.

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